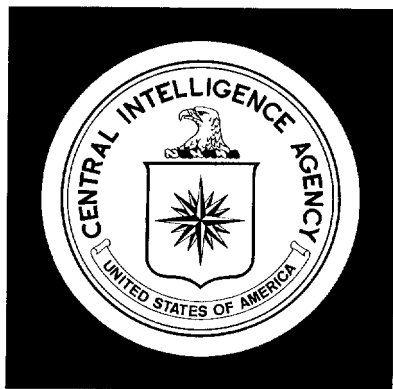


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CAMBODIA: Khmer Communist forces continue to close in on Kompong Cham City. The situation deteriorated further yesterday, when the insurgents stepped up their pressure against government positions just northwest and southwest of the isolated northern provincial capital. At last report, some Communist elements had infiltrated sections of the city itself, and government forces were pulling back in some disarray. Government battalions have made little progress in their effort to open a section of Route 7 on the western outskirts of the city.

The Communist threat to government defenses on the city's eastern edge has diminished temporarily as a result of effective fire support from Cambodian Navy vessels on the Mekong. This force has already expended half of its ammunition, however, and several vessels are returning to Phnom Penh today to pick up fresh supplies.

In the Phnom Penh area, government units of the 1st Division have made no headway in reopening Route 4 near Ang Snuol, 15 miles from the capital. The operation has been hindered by bickering between senior commanders. Other government forces moving on Ang Snuol from the southwest, however, are making some progress against light resistance. South of Phnom Penh, scattered fighting is continuing along several sections of Routes 2 and 201 as 3rd Division elements seek to re-establish control over the two roads.

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VIETNAM: The Communists are trying to reduce the scope of the ICCS by urging a cutback in its personnel. Hanoi and the PRG have sent diplomatic notes to the ICCS members proposing that they "consider immediately" such a cutback. The language of the notes suggests that Hanoi may be laying the groundwork for a later demand that ICCS regional and local teams be removed, leaving only the ICCS headquarters in Saigon.

The Communist side, using the argument that the ICCS should be basically a mediating rather than an investigative body, has been pushing for a reduction in ICCS activities almost since the commission's establishment. This effort does not necessarily indicate that Hanoi plans a major increase in its military or political activity in the countryside, but it does suggest that the Communists find the presence of ICCS teams throughout the country politically and psychologically inhibiting.

In all likelihood, the Communists would prefer to reshape the ICCS before the new Iranian team gets established. They probably will use the commission's recurrent financial difficulties to back up their arguments that its activities should be curtailed.

Even if this Communist pressure fails, the ICCS is not likely to be as vigorous as it was before Canada's departure. The Iranians will probably play a more passive role than the Canadians did, and in any case it will take them some time to get the feel of the situation. There is no indication that the Communist members of the ICCS, Poland and Hungary, intend to be any more cooperative than in the past, although Poland has stopped suggesting that it might withdraw.

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NORWAY: Shattered political alliances continue to mar prospects for a stable government after the Norwegian elections on 9-10 September.

Nearly all of Norway's traditional parties still suffer from divisions caused by the referendum last year in which EC membership was rejected. Some of the non-Socialist parties that normally could be counted on to try to form a coalition may find cooperation difficult. Internal party splits, also caused by the EC issue, have resulted in the formation of several splinter parties. A rightist, anti-tax movement and a plethora of small parties with narrow, parochial interests add to the confusion.

The latest polls continue to show Labor with about 41 percent and the five largest non-Socialist parties with more than 46 percent of the vote. Some of these polls concluded, however, that Labor, combined with the small leftist parties, will win a plurality. Prospects for a leftist coalition appear better than a reconstitution of the center-right coalition which is still recovering from the outcome of the EC referendum. A Labor victory that would permit the party to govern alone or with the support of leftists on domestic issues and non-Socialists on defense and foreign policy might provide the best chance for stability.

Norwegians will be saddled for the next four years with whatever parliamentary mix they choose. The constitution does not provide for dissolving parliament or for calling early elections. If the voters and politicians exercise the same stubborn independence they demonstrated in the EC referendum, Oslo may face an important period in European history with unstable coalition governments similar to the present weak mini-coalition.

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AUSTRALIA: Canberra probably will impose export controls on meat in the next few weeks in an effort to reduce domestic meat prices. The US Embassy in Canberra reports that controls will probably take the form of selective quotas, which will prevent the export of those types of meat in high demand on the domestic market. Beef of first-grade export quality, which is shipped primarily to Japan and the UK, will be hardest hit by the proposed controls. Shipments to the US, which account for nearly half of US beef imports, also will be affected.

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SUDAN: Reacting to the threat of a general strike, the government yesterday declared a state of emergency that empowers it to suspend civil rights.

The threat was presented to the government by six union leaders, including a representative of the key Railway Workers Union, acting in sympathy with dissident students. The union leaders were promptly arrested. They warned the government that the strike would begin today unless schools are reopened, arrested demonstrators released, the army returned to the barracks, and recent security measures rescinded. In the view of the US Embassy, a strike by the railway workers would create severe food and fuel shortages and would present President Numayri, who is attending the nonaligned summit in Algiers, with a serious challenge.

It is not clear whether the union officials have broad support among rank-and-file workers or were pursuing their own political interests. In any case, the government's resort to emergency measures reflects its concern about possible further disturbances.

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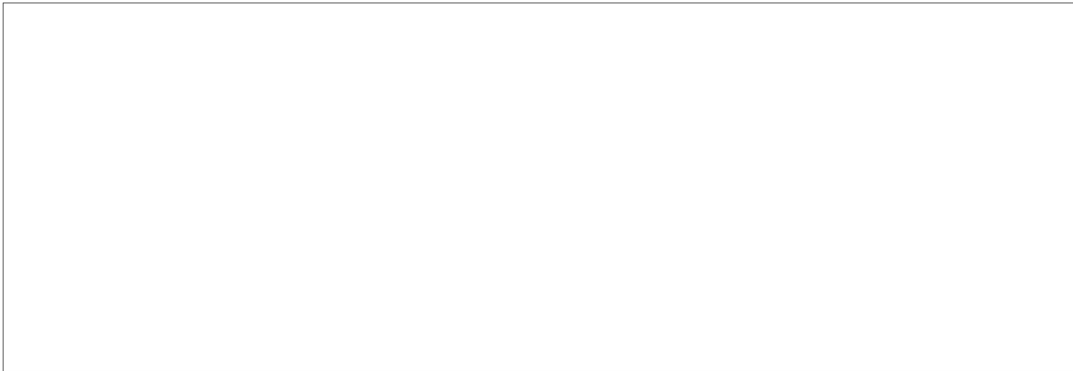
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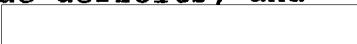
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FOR THE RECORD*




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International Monetary Developments: The pound sterling came under heavy pressures on European money markets yesterday. In line with the pound's fall, the dollar depreciated about 1 percent against the joint float currencies. Dealers attribute the pound's weakness to reduced UK interest rates, anticipation of continued large trade deficits, and fears of renewed labor problems. 


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Romania - China - North Korea: A high-level Romanian party/government delegation headed by President Ceausescu's close adviser, Emil Bodnaras, left for Peking and Pyongyang on 4 September. Following talks with the Chinese that will undoubtedly touch on Soviet pressure for an East European show of unity against Maoism, the delegation will proceed to Pyongyang for North Korea's 25th anniversary celebrations on 8 September. 

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China: Peking has signed a contract with Kellogg Continental of Amsterdam for the construction of five urea plants worth \$55 million, raising China's whole plant purchases this year to about \$500 million. 

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Ecuador: A settlement of the month-long teachers' strike appears imminent. Although student unrest remains a problem, an agreement with dissident teachers should ease much of the pressure on the military regime. 

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**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

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